

# The St. Joseph County Conservation & Sportsman Club, Inc.

**75th Anniversary**

23640 Featherstone Rd, PO Box 339, Sturgis, MI 49091

Telephone (269) 467-7128

Home Page: <http://www.conservationclub.us>



Volume Sixty Five, Issue 2

FEBRUARY 2012

## Meeting

### Notes

- Membership Meeting 7 PM  
Monday, February 13
- Board Meeting 7 PM  
Monday, February 27

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## ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION

Election of club Officers is coming on March 12, 2012. Up for re-election are all of the Officers of the Corporation; President Jeff Brazo, Vice President Allen Kasdorf, Executive Secretary John Brummett, Treasurer Charlie Reynolds, and Recording Secretary Leslie York. The following District Directors are also up for election; Jay Baker, Larry York and Jack Boughton. At this time there is one opening for a District 2 Director.

Almost all of the above Officers and Directors are doing more than one job at the club. Don't be afraid to become involved. **Remember, your membership is worth only what you choose to put in it.** Our club is a volunteer organization and we ask that you donate some of your time each year to assist the club in our many activities. Without every member's help, the club will cease to exist in its present form.

If anyone wishes more information or knows someone that might like to hold an office, contact the Nominating committee (Executive Secretary). If a member wishes to vote via an Absentee Ballot he/she must request the ballot on or before February 15, 2012 from the Executive Secretary.

### Agenda

- Conservation Pledge.
- Introductions.
- Reading of minutes of previous meeting.
- Annual Executive Secretary's report.
- Annual Treasurer's report.
- Annual reports from Committees required by their charge to make a report to the Annual Membership Meeting.
- Election of Officers of the Corporation and Directors.
- Good of the Corporation.
- Adjournment.

## DEPUTY SPEAKS ON ID THEFT & SCAMS



Deputy Mark Mellinger, St Joseph County Sheriff's Dept, was our guest speaker at the January Membership meeting.

His topics were ID Theft and Internet Scams that are used on the unknowing public every day, and how we should learn to avoid being a victim.

He covered the different methods used to obtain information needed to get into bank accounts and medical records where money and valuable information is stored. He said that the honest citizen has to be on their "toes" every minute to insure their information is not used for unlawful purposes, and also told us of certain ways seen locally that have been used from his and other deputies experiences.

The February meeting program is scheduled to be presented by Charlie Reynolds and will be a review of our Hunter Safety Program, including information on how to become an instructor if you are so inclined.

## "Hidden Valley" Cowboy Range History

In 2001, the St. Joseph County Conservation & Sportsman Club, Inc. of Sturgis, Michigan added another new shooting range dedicated to Cowboy Action Shooting on their 75 year old 142 acre property. Steel targets were purchased from a club that had closed and an excavator was hired to form six shooting bays. Facade buildings were constructed in various forms and "stage scenarios" were written for each to instruct the "Cowboys" (AND Cowgirls) in shooting sequences. Announcements were sent to other Cowboy Shooting clubs in West-Central lower Michigan and the local news media were given press releases with the projected start-up date for the first match.

In addition to the stage building facades, a "Score Shack" was built to house supplies, tools, sign-up forms, etc. A few years back a standby generator was purchased, and a computer/printer set up in the Score Shack. This enabled tallying scores during lunch, so that the Match Director could hand out certificates to category winners before leaving. Lunch is offered at a minimal \$3.00 added to the \$15.00 range fee. The lunch area is covered by an expansive canopy with steel roof and includes eight large picnic tables.

"Hidden Valley" is exactly that: A valley 1/2 mile into the deep forest and down a gradual slope to the shooting range below. The six shooting bays are well shaded by the surrounding forest of deciduous trees, making Mid-Summer competitions much more comfortable for participants. A 7th bay is under construction currently. Competitions run from April through October, as once November snows begin it is nearly impossible to drive even 4X4 vehicles back up the winding slope. Our newly made parking area can easily accommodate 80+ vehicles. The original lot can hold 100 more vehicles.

Attendance has reached as high as 72 shooters when the economy was strong and gas prices decent, but in the last two years of political strife and rampant inflation, we have varied between 30 and 50 shooters. Our attendees come from as far away as Grand Rapids and Holland Michigan, to Michigan City, Goshen, and Warsaw, Indiana. Hidden Valley is affiliated with SASS as well as Michigan Wolverine Rangers.

**In March of 2012, we are sponsoring a first-ever Midwest Cowboy Action Shooting Expo just across the Indiana border at The Shipshewana Town Center.** This will not be a typical gun show, but a strictly CAS Expo. We expect representatives from major Cowboy vendors with booths, as well as SASS and our own club booth, within the 15,000 square feet we're renting. This event will be used to inform and attract new shooters to Cowboy Action Shooting competitions as well as introduction to SASS. Free parking is expansive, and there are numerous hotels and motels in the nearby area. The dates for this All-Cowboy Expo are **March 10th and 11th, 2012.**

For more details on Hidden Valley or The Cowboy Expo, feel free to contact:

"Sauk Valley Stubby" at [cas-stubby@hotmail.com](mailto:cas-stubby@hotmail.com), 269-651-5197

or

"Blackthorne Billy": [Blackthorne4440@aol.com](mailto:Blackthorne4440@aol.com) 269-476-2856

## SLEDDING PARTY?

There will be a sledding party for members and their families on the club grounds on March 3 starting at 3 PM, providing snow remains to allow it.

Free hot chocolate and possibly a movie will be provided in the clubhouse. Mark your calendars and plan to make use of your club!

Obviously, all ranges will be closed during this event.

## TURKEY DISTRIBUTION

The turkeys that remained in the freezer after the jubilee were put to good use at Christmas time.

Fifteen of them were given to families of servicemen that just finished training and were being deployed to Afganistan, ten were given to the Sturgis Trinity Lutheran Church food basket program and the remaining seven were given to the Three Rivers Fire Dept for their food basket distribution.

## TRAP LEAGUE WINNER

Word has it that our Recording Secretary Leslie York shamed one other woman and seven men at the 1st Winter League Trap Shoot in January!

## UPCOMING IN 2012

Mar 1, 8-10: Hunter Safety Class  
 Mar 3: Family sledding party (if snow remains) w/hot chocolate  
 Mar 18: **ATA Trap**  
 Mar 24-25: CPL Class  
 Mar 31: IDPA Starts season  
 Apr 15: Cowboys start season  
 Apr 21-22: Pers Protection O.T.H.  
 Apr 22: **ATA Trap**  
 Apr 22: IHMSA Starts season  
 May 5: Basic Pistol Handling  
 May 8: Big 50 Trap  
 May 19-20: CPL Class  
 June 12: Big 50 Trap  
 June 16-17: Pers Protection O.T.H.  
 July 7-8: CPL Class  
 July 12, 19-21: Hunter Safety Class  
 July 14: **75th Anniversary Party**  
 Aug 18: Basic Pistol Class  
 Sept 8-9: CPL Class  
 Sept 11: Big 50 Trap  
 Sept 13, 20-22: Hunter Safety Class  
 Oct 7: **ATA Trap**  
 Oct 11, 18-20: Hunter Safety Class  
 Oct 13-14: Pers Protection O.T.H.  
 Nov 4: **ATA Trap**

**REMEMBER: EYE AND EAR PROTECTION IS REQUIRED ON ALL RANGES**

**Financial News:** For the Fiscal Year to Date after the ten month period ending December 26, 2011, we had total revenues of \$62,562.25 and total expenses of \$41,462.47. Balance on hand is \$59,841.46 in checking \$11,186.84 in pre-paid dues CD.

**Membership Status:** As of December 26, 2011, we now have a total of **509 paid members**. If you have changed your address or know of someone who is not getting their newsletter, call and leave your message and corrected information.

**Lost and Found**

Have you lost or found anything on the Club

Grounds? If so, contact John Brummett at 651-5197 and we will help!

**PLEASE NOTICE**

The St Joseph County Conservation & Sportsman Club, Inc., has a 501(c)(4) tax-exempt organization status. Under this rule, donations to the club are *not* deductible on your individual taxes as charitable contributions.

*Conservation Pledge*

*I give my pledge as an American to save and faithfully defend from waste the natural resources of my country – its air, soil, and minerals, its forests, waters, and wildlife.*

*The Second Amendment*

*A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.*

**APPLICATION FOR NRA MEMBERSHIP**

Membership in the NRA obtained through our club benefits us in that the NRA returns part of your fee to us, and benefits you because you pay a reduced membership fee because of belonging to a member club.

Please Renew my NRA membership: NRA member # \_\_\_\_\_

Please sign me up as a New NRA member:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Club Rate: \$25 per year, make check payable to NRA: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Magazine Choice:  America's 1st Freedom  American Hunter  American Rifleman  Woman's Outlook

Mail to: Bob Besser, club NRA recruiter  
PO Box 220  
Sturgis, MI 49091

**Membership Applicants**

Brian Petoskey	Centreville, MI
Steven J Mesler	Burr Oak, MI
Raymond Swinsick	Sturgis, MI
Vance Neubert	Constantine, MI

**Are You Online?**

- If you are online and would like to be in contact with other members who are also online, we can put your address right here. Send your name and e-mail to Chris Buckhold at his e-mail
- Ron Adams shootsafely@yahoo.com
  - Bill Albert grampaw\_willie@charter.net
  - Charles Arnold penguinzlvr@yahoo.com
  - David Balowski davidandtracey@stjoeriverbows.com
  - Doug Birky kb8m@arrl.net
  - Jeff Brazo (President) pm2brazo@frontier.com
  - John Brown john\_brown02@hotmail.com
  - John W Brummett (Exec-Secy) johnsally@charter.net
  - Chris Buckhold (Newsletter Ed) chbuckhold@charter.net
  - Rodney Chupp Rodney@chupplc.com
  - William (Bill) Cooley wmcooley@hotmail.com
  - George (Pete) Dibble g\_dibble25@comcast.net
  - George (Pete) Dibble—web site http://www.n8zsg.org
  - Bill Douglas bill8jan@charter.net
  - Tim Eagan tseagan@charter.net
  - Bob Foote penpal@cbpu.com
  - Wes Garner caps4secrets@hotmail.com
  - Mike Good (Cowboy Action) mngood1@yahoo.com
  - Allen Kasdorf (V. Pres) allenkasdorf@gmail.com
  - Mike Knarr maknarr@aol.com
  - Gary Kondek (IHMSA) gary.kondek@yahoo.com
  - Matt Lori shlori@yahoo.com
  - Bill Luban (Dist 1 Dir) Blackthorne4440@aol.com
  - Mark Luce mark.luce@frontier.com
  - Richard Martin martincr2010@live.com
  - Robert Magness sengam@netzero.net
  - Vaughn Mandigo vaughnm@net-link.net
  - Royce McCullough rkmccullough@charter.net
  - Justin Mears jmears72@yahoo.com
  - Larry Miller lcksmi@hughes.net
  - Larry Murray info@lostonationarchery.com
  - Nancy Lawrence jlawrence1700@charter.net
  - Lee Newport lonabn@gmail.com
  - John Raifsnider jrrolr@charter.net
  - Charles Reynolds (IDPA) shootsafely@comcast.net
  - Troy Reynolds (Archery, Dist 2 Dir) shootsafely@frontier.com
  - Charlie Richardson richardsonce1960@yahoo.com
  - Tom Rock trock@freemamfmg.com
  - Delmar Shouse (Sat Skeet) dcshouse@charter.net
  - Rob Sisson robsisson@yahoo.com
  - Kelly Snelson kelly7383@usa.com
  - Peter Snelson arguscpl07@hotmail.com
  - Bob Stanker rmstanker@aol.com
  - Norm Stutesman Thespian49093@yahoo.com
  - Dean Suber (Pub Rel) dasuber@frontier.com
  - John Summey jsummey@voyager.net
  - Bill Watson wwatson@chartermi.net
  - Bill Willis (Dist 3 Dir) wildbandwoolly@aol.com
  - Larry & Leslie York (trap) trapgeek@yahoo.com
- WEB PAGE:** <http://www.conservationclub.us>
- Note:** You can also access our web page by going to [www.mcrgo.org](http://www.mcrgo.org), then click on affiliates, then our club. At the same time you will be able to check out the *Michigan Coalition*.

**Ad Space Available**

There is room for your business ad for only \$100 per year!!!! (business card format)  
Showcase your business to over 400 St Joe County Conservation and Sportsman Club members each month!  
Classified ads for members to buy, sell, or trade: only \$5.00 for 3 mos.

## OFFICERS

President	Jeff Brazo	651-9076
Vice President	Allen Kasdorf	651-7086
Executive Secretary	John Brummett	651-5197
Treasurer	Charles Reynolds	273-7295
Recording Secretary	Leslie York	483-9475

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

District #1	Jay Baker	(home) 278-9553 (office) 279-3109
	Bill Luban	476-2856
	Bill Luban (cell)	(630)392-6072
District #2	Troy Reynolds	506-3256
	Mike Good	483-2454
District #3	Bill Willis	435-7615
	Larry York	483-9475
District #4	Nancy Lawrence	651-1700
	Jack Boughton	651-2963
Dir. At Large	John Hackler	435-7035

## COMMITTEES AND CHAIRMEN

### Membership Activities

Newsletter	Chris Buckhold	651-3056
Advertising line	Chris Buckhold	651-3056
Public Relations	Dean Suber	273-8092
NRA Recruiter	Bob Besser	651-8455

### Administrative Activities

Finance	Charles Reynolds	273-7295
Nominating	John Brummett	651-5197

### Dir of Maintenance

Boys Night Out		
Lower Range	Gary Kondek	(574)274-3694
Club House Rentals	Request at Board of Directors Meeting	
Calendar of Events	Chris Buckhold	651-3056
MUCC District #4	John Summey	432-4646
	Allen Kasdorf	651-7086

Hunter Education	Charles Reynolds	273-7295
CPL Instruction	Jeff Brazo	651-9076

### Work Day Info

### Fund Raising Activities

Hunters Jubilee	Allen Kasdorf	
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### Weekly /League Activities

Trap - Sunday	Larry & Leslie York	483-9475
Skeet - Saturday	Delmar Shouse	651-9298
Trap - Tuesday		
Skeet - Tues, Sun	Ramze Idriss	503-0404
IHMSA Shoots	Gary Kondek	(574)274-3694
	Bill Willis	435-7615
In/outdoor .22 cal	John Hackler	435-7035
Youth .22 Cal Shoots	Gary Kondek	(574)274-3694
Archery	Troy Reynolds	506-3256
Skeet Lessons	Bill Chase	244-5475
Cowboy Action Shoot	John Brummett	651-5197
	Mike Good	483-2454
Defensive Pistol	Charles Reynolds	273-7295

**Executive Secretary: John Brummett**  
**PO Box 339**  
**Sturgis, MI 49091**  
**(269) 651-5197**

**Web Page Editor Kelly Snelson 503-5202**

(All telephone numbers are area code 269 unless noted)

## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

### ST JOSEPH COUNTY CONSERVATION AND SPORTSMAN CLUB, Inc.

\*\*\*\*\*

I respectfully apply for membership in the St. Joseph County Conservation and Sportsman Club, Inc.

I certify by signing this application that I am a person 18 years of age or older, who accepts the Purposes and objectives of the Corporation and agrees to promote the same, and has complied with the requisites of membership as provided in these Bylaws.

I further give my pledge, as an American, to save and faithfully to defend from waste the natural resources of my country; its air, soil, minerals, forests, waters, and its wildlife.

I understand that to become eligible to join I must be recommended by a present club member in good standing. Or personally inform the Board of Directors why I wish to be a member.  
**(Please print application clearly)**

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Check if Spouse desires Membership Card  
 Spouse \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Recommended by: \_\_\_\_\_

New Member Application \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal Application \_\_\_\_\_

Interests: Archery\_\_\_\_, Trap\_\_\_\_, Skeet\_\_\_\_, Rifle\_\_\_\_, Pistol\_\_\_\_, Black Powder\_\_\_\_, Cowboy\_\_\_\_, IDPA\_\_\_\_

FEE: \$75 for one year family membership. Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail Application to: St. Joe. Co. Conservation & Sportsman club, Inc.  
 c/o John Brummett  
 PO Box 339  
 Sturgis, MI 49091

Received of: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Membership subject to the approval of the Board of Directors at the next Board meeting. **After Board Approval New Member Information Packages are handed out at the mandatory New Member Orientation.** Club Newsletters should start within 60 days.

## St. Joseph Co. Conservation & Sportsman Club, Inc.

23640 Featherstone Rd, PO Box 339  
 Sturgis, MI 49091

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**US Postage**  
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